

CRYPTOSPORIDIOSIS

Cryptosporidiosis is an illness caused by the coccidian protozoa *Cryptosporidium parvum* characterized by diarrhea, abdominal cramps, anorexia, low-grade fever, nausea and vomiting. Infected persons may be asymptomatic. The disease can be prolonged and life-threatening in severely immunocompromised persons. Transmission is fecal-oral and includes person to person, animal to person, waterborne, and foodborne routes. *Cryptosporidia* parasites occur worldwide affecting humans, cattle, poultry, reptiles and many other vertebrate species.

Laboratory Criteria for Confirmation:

- ?? Demonstration of *Cryptosporidium* oocysts in stool, **OR**
- ?? Demonstration of *Cryptosporidium* in small bowel biopsy or other clinical specimens, **OR**
- ?? Demonstration of *Cryptosporidium* antigen in stool by a specific immunodiagnostic test such as enzyme-linked immunosorbent assays (ELISA).

Case Classification

Confirmed: A case that is laboratory confirmed.

Probable: A clinically compatible case that is epidemiologically linked to a confirmed case.

Epidemiology

Kentucky	2001	Rate per 100,000	U.S. Rate (2000) per 100,000
Cases	5	0.1	1.17

In 2001, the ages of reported cases ranged from 3 months to 77 years of age. They were reported from 5 different counties and five districts. Four of the cases were in males and one in a female.